



# The Lion's Den

Bethesda Elementary School & Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

Issue 11

February 3, 2012

## Principally Speaking...

Dear BE Families-

This is a reminder that at the beginning of the year I requested that during arrival and dismissal your pets are to be kept on a leash and away from the entrances/exits to the school building and the walkways leading from the school building entrance\exit (heavy student traffic areas). I made the request for the following reasons:

- There are students (and adults) who are afraid of dogs.
- Leashes pose a tripping hazard.
- Excited dogs are unpredictable.
- Children don't always know how to handle a dog.
- Not all dogs get along well around children (big or small) or other dogs.

Please see Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation ECJ-RA.

It was great seeing so many of the 4th and 5th grade families at the Winter Concert last Thursday, January 26th. The musicians were amazing and the 5th grade performance of Lewis and Clark was fabulous! Thank you Dr. Hunt, Ms. Canatella and the 5th grade teachers for a lovely evening.

On Saturday we had a school spirit fundraising event at Whitman HS. The BE Staff played against the Washington Greenhawks in an entertaining basketball game. It was a ton of fun and a great learning experience for me—I learned that a player can't run with the ball, this action is called traveling. 😊 Thank you for coming out and supporting the staff!

Thank you.



*Lisa Seymour*

### Calling all Volunteers...WE NEED YOU!!!!

Join the kids at recess during the winter months!

~SIGN UP ONLINE~

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/recess37>

On your volunteer day, sign in pick up the bin and materials in the front office and read the provided directions. If there is inclement weather, please call the front office to see if there will be outdoor recess.



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### Important Dates:

- February 7th  
PTA MEETING (7:30 pm)
- February 14th  
VALENTINES DAY PARTIES  
(Gr. 1-5 @ 1:45/ K @ 2:00)
- February 20  
NO SCHOOL—Presidents ' Day
- February 25th  
GAME NIGHT (6:30pm BE GYM)

## A message from Mrs. Seymour and Ms. Reece, Principal at Bradley Hills ES

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In March 2010, the Board of Education adopted a boundary change between Bethesda and Bradley Hills Elementary Schools to address the overutilization at Bethesda Elementary School. Beginning in August 2013, the western portion of the Bethesda Elementary School (Bethesda ES) service area (that articulates to Pyle MS and Whitman HS) will be reassigned to Bradley Hills Elementary School (Bradley Hills). For more information please go to -- [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/Bethesda Bradley Hills BOE action.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/Bethesda_Bradley_Hills_BOE_action.pdf)

Although the change in the articulation pattern is not scheduled to occur until August 2013, Ms. Reece and I have been working on a transition plan. Some of the efforts made by the Bradley Hills' community to involve Bethesda ES families, future Bradley Hills' families, were: the inclusion of Bethesda ES parent representatives during part of the construction planning phase for the Bradley Hills' renovation, and the participation of a Bethesda ES parent representative during the selection process for the aftercare program.

At this time, a list of future Bradley Hills' families and their contact information is being generated and will be maintained and shared with the staff at Bradley Hills.

In the Spring of 2012, Patricia Brown, the Bethesda ES PTA President, will work with our PTA Executive Board to identify a parent liaison. This individual will attend the Bradley Hills PTA Executive Board meetings during the 2012-2013 school-year.

In the Fall of 2012, Ms. Reece and I will host a parent information meeting, at which time we will share the transition plan for 2013-2014 school year.

Below are links to the Bradley Hills listserv and other communication forums. Accessing these links will provide you with information about PTA and school sponsored evening events and weekend activities, with which you can attend.

Listserv address is: [bradley.net@yahoo.com](mailto:bradley.net@yahoo.com)

Website address with newsletter link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bradleyhillses/>

PTA information: <http://www.bhespta.com/>

The Bradley Hills Education Foundation website is: <http://www.bradleyhillseducationfoundation.org/>

# Literary Magazine!

The students at Bethesda Elementary are authors of wonderful stories, poems, reports, personal narratives, opinion pieces, Slam Poetry (Grade 5), Young Author's Contest entries and much more! Now is the time for your child to determine which selection is their best and publish it in our Literary Magazine. Each student is allowed to submit one piece of their work for publication. You may submit work electronically to our wonderful parent volunteer, Lis Nielsen ([l.nielsen@earthlink.net](mailto:l.nielsen@earthlink.net)). When submitting work, copy Karen Sanchez at ([Karen\\_G\\_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_G_Sanchez@mcpsmd.org)).

## Guidelines:

- Include child's full name and grade level
- Use 12 point New Times Roman or Comic Sans fonts
- Submit word texts, no pdf files
- Respect the privacy of others
- Pieces of a violent nature will not be published
- All entries must be submitted by **May 4, 2012.**

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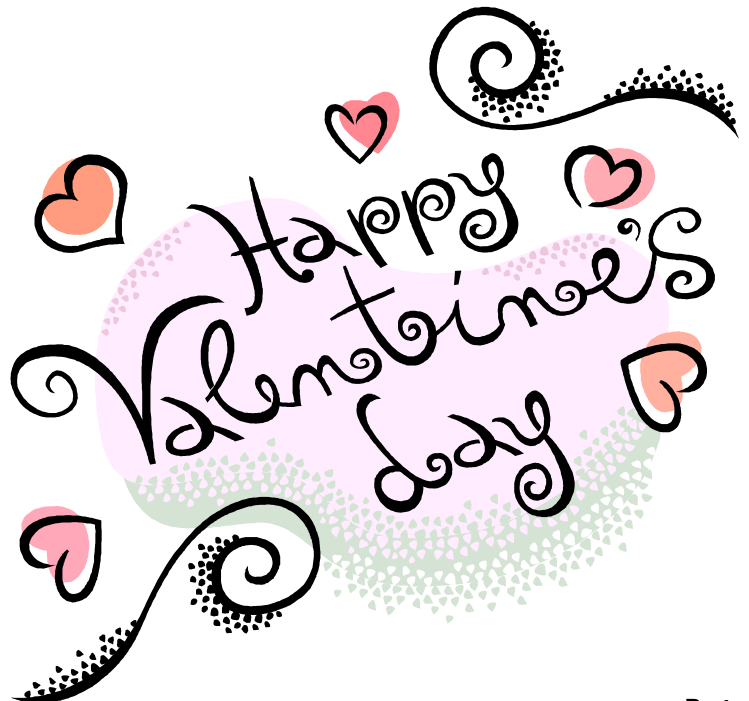
## Valentine's Day Celebrations

We will be celebrating Valentines Day on  
Tuesday, February 14th.

Please check the grade level newsletters for  
specific information and about volunteering.

Parties will begin at  
1:45 for Grade 1- Grade 5

And at  
2:00 for Kindergarten



# Counselor's Corner

## National School Counseling Week:

National School Counseling Week 2012, "School Counselors: Helping Students Be Brilliant," will be celebrated from Feb. 6–10, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by ASCA, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Here at Bethesda, I am working with all students to build awareness of school counseling and to let them know that I am always here for them whenever they may need someone to talk with. Please join me in celebrating this week by encouraging your children to practice some of the counseling techniques they have learned at school. Here are a few ideas:

- using an I-Message to talk with someone about how they feel
- display appropriate social skills and good sportsmanship qualities
- focus on not using "putdowns"
- have a dinner topic that the family discusses (respect, cooperation, inclusion, etc.)
- set an organizational goal for the family to achieve by the weekend

practice and use the Debug rules when someone is "bugging" you

Ignore

Move Away

Talk Friendly

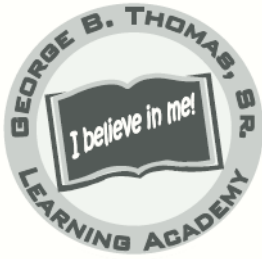
Talk Firmly

Get Adult Help



## Middle School Parent Information:

Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be attending Westland or Pyle, all registration forms for Westland must be returned to their homeroom teacher by Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and all registration forms for Pyle must be returned to their homeroom teacher by Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.



The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.

# Saturday School

## What is Saturday School?

- Tutoring and mentoring program for Montgomery County students in Grades 1 through 12 who want additional academic support
- Small group instruction from certified teachers
- Curriculum aligned with that of Montgomery County Public Schools
  - Grades 1 through 8 focus on reading, language arts and math
  - Grades 9 through 12 focus on core subjects (English and Math); support for SAT, ACT and HS Assessments; HSA Bridge support available at select sites

## When?

SATURDAY MORNINGS THROUGH APRIL 21, 2012  
8:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.  
BREAKFAST PROVIDED AT 8:00 A.M. AT ALL CENTERS EXCEPT SHERWOOD  
SEE CALENDAR ONLINE AT [WWW.SATURDAYSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.SATURDAYSCHOOL.ORG)

## How to Register?

Parents **must register in person** at the Saturday School Center that their child will attend. At the time of registration, parents **must bring**:

- Registration fee (**\$40 for FARMS / \$50 for non-FARMS**) per student.
  - A payment plan, financial assistance and scholarships are available. Please see your principal or school counselor for more information.
  - Make checks payable to GBTLA or The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.
- Their child's most recent report card

You may register your child any Saturday that Saturday School is in session providing space is available.

## Where?

### 12 LOCATIONS

BLAIR HS  
EINSTEIN HS  
GAITHERSBURG MS  
KENNEDY HS  
MAGRUDER HS  
NORTHWEST HS  
PAINT BRANCH HS  
ROCKVILLE HS  
SHERWOOD HS  
SPRINGBROOK HS  
WATKINS MILL HS  
WHEATON HS

Transportation provided at Blair, Kennedy and Wheaton High Schools.

## Questions?

Call the Office of the Executive Director  
at 301-320-6545

# A Note from the Nurse...Health Room Winter Update



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## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL**

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When your child is sick, keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child but other children and staff in the classroom at school.

### **WHAT ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF ILLNESS**

Some important signs of illness are:

1. A temperature of more than 100o orally
2. Nausea or vomiting
3. Stomachache
4. Diarrhea
5. Pale or flushed face
6. Headache
7. Persistent cough
8. Earache
9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose
10. Sore throat
11. Rash or infection of the skin
12. Red or pink eyes
13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?**

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care.

Children sometimes use illness as an excuse to miss school. On the other hand, some children force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. There may be times that your child does not show signs of the above-noted symptoms but may be ill. It is up to you to be alert to your child's health and to decide when it is best to send him/her to school.

### **WHEN MAY MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ILLNESS?**

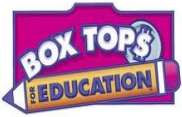
Generally, your child may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to see your source of medical care before returning to school. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions regarding a specific condition.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?**

If your child complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you.

From the PTA...

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**It's time for round 2. The spring box tops classroom competition has begun. Start clipping and sending box tops in with your children. Please send your box tops in baggie marked with your classroom teacher's name.**

**All box tops need to be brought into school by Thursday morning, February 23rd to count for the spring competition. The classroom with the most box tops per student will win an ice cream party. In the fall semester, we earned over \$600 for our school. Our goal for the spring is to have each student bring in at least 10 box tops.**

**Please contact Carrie Mulford at (301) 986-0177 or [carriemulford@verizon.net](mailto:carriemulford@verizon.net) if you have any questions.**

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# Get Your Game On! It's Family Game Night!

**WHAT:** Family Game Night\*

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 25, 2011 6:30-8:00 pm

**WHERE:** BE gym

--Bingo, Charades, Musical Chairs and Prizes!!

--Snacks and beverages for sale.

**\*All children must attend with parent or guardian.**



From the PTA...



**BE School Store**  
**OPEN: Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

**in the lobby**

We sell pencils,  
pens, erasers, school  
supplies, and more!

**Bring Your Quarters! Most Items Under \$1.00**

All proceeds benefit the BE PTA.

*4th Grade Student + Parent Volunteer Run*